Proyectos para María: Community based projects for a resilient future in the Caribbean Islands

The paths of hurricanes Irma (category 5) and María (category 4) passed through the Caribbean last September devastating complete island nations, leaving thousands homeless, and destroying basic infrastructure and food and water resources. The record winds and flooding created awareness of the ever-rising risk of more frequent and intense hurricanes in the coming future. In addition, Irma and María made evident the deficiencies and vulnerabilities of construction, infrastructure and planning.

The Studio will analyze the island’s urban structure, natural systems and its planning objectives and ideals to search for coherent and resilient design solutions to sustain the production and habitability of these island nations in their different local scenarios, from the coast to the valleys to the mountains. The Studio projects will include reviewing, assessing and proposing design initiatives for some of the most vulnerable communities in Puerto Rico.

Students will assess existing risks and propose design solutions to help these communities confront rising sea levels, contaminated water supplies, loss of nutritional security and general wellbeing.